

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:TJCAROLAN:MDRAPER/HLK

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

PM - T. STERN (SUBS)

DOD/DSAA:GEN. FISH (SUBS)

NEA - MR. ATHERTON, JR.

DOD/ISA:COL; THOMPSON (SUBS)

S/S:PSHANKLE

----- 125403

O 172311Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 094163

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, US, SA

SUBJECT: FINANCING JORDAN'S AIR DEFENSE

REF: (A) JIDDA 2622, (B) JIDDA 2643

1. WE HAVE SUCH A SHORT TIME LEFT IN WHICH TO HELP ARRANGE A RESOLUTION OF THE JORDANIAN-SAUDI HAWK FUNDING IMPASSE THAT I HAVE DECIDED TO SEND A MESSAGE TO PRINCE FAHD REQUESTING HIS EARLY RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSALS YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY CONVEYED TO THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT.

2. IN DELIVERING THE MESSAGE, YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE TO FAHD THAT, BASED ON OUR RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH HUSSEIN AND HIS MILITARY ADVISERS, WE ARE CONVINCED HE WILL CONSIDER NO ALTERNATIVE OTHER THAN ONE THAT PROVIDES JORDAN WITH A MINIMUM OF 14 HAWK BATTERIES AND 100 VULCAN GUNS.

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YOU SHOULD ADD THAT WE THEREFORE NO LONGER REGARD ANY OF

THE OTHER OPTIONS COVERED BY OUR EARLIER PROPOSALS AS PRACTICABLE, AND THAT WE ARE NOW SEEKING SAUDI AGREEMENT TO FINANCE THE DOLLARS 520 MILLION PACKAGE, FROM WHICH WE HAVE ELIMINATED ALL LOWER-PRIORITY EQUIPMENT, TRAINING AND SERVICES IN ORDER TO CUT COSTS TO THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT IF SAG CAN AGREE TO FINANCE THIS AUSTERE 14 BATTERY/100 GUN SYSTEM AND JOIN WITH US IN

CONVEYING THIS NEWS TO KING HUSSEIN, THERE IS A VERY GOOD CHANCE THAT THE PROBLEM CAN BE OVERCOME AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF JORDAN'S TURNING ELSEWHERE AVOIDED.

3. YOU CAN ASSURE FAHD THAT THERE IS NO WAY IN WHICH THE JORDANIANS CAN ACQUIRE FROM US THE BASIC EQUIPMENT THEY CONSIDER NECESSARY AT A COST LESS THAN 520 MILLION DOLLARS. THE FIGURE OF APPROXIMATELY 300 MILLION THAT WAS OCCASIONALLY MENTIONED AT THE TIME THE SALE WAS BEING CONSIDERED LAST SUMMER COVERED ONLY THE WEAPONS THEMSELVES PLUS SOME OTHER BASIC EQUIPMENT. AS HE KNOWS, SUCH A HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED SYSTEM REQUIRES A GREAT DEAL OF ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT SUCH AS RADARS, COMMUNICATIONS, CONTROL SYSTEMS, AND SO FORTH IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE. IT WAS THIS ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT WHICH, TOGETHER WITH RELATED SERVICES, BROUGHT THE ORIGINAL PRICE TO MORE THAN 700 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE FULL SYSTEM. YOU SHOULD ALSO POINT OUT THAT, MUCH AS WE WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH FINANCING THIS SALE, ALL THE FUNDS PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO US FOR JORDAN ARE FULLY COMMITTED TO OTHER HIGH PRIORITY JORDANIAN MILITARY PURCHASES. YOU MIGHT ALSO EMPHASIZE THAT U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO JORDAN SINCE 1967 HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL, AND WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING TOTALS OF DOLLARS 175 MILLION FOR FY 76 AND DOLLARS 145 MILLION FOR FY 77 (GRANTS AND CREDITS).

4. BEGIN TEXT:

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS:

I GREATLY APPRECIATE OUR RECENT EXCHANGES ON THE
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DIFFICULT SITUATION IN LEBANON. I AM REASSURED BY THE FACT THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS APPEAR TO SHARE A COMMON VIEW OF THE DANGERS THERE. IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU MY THOUGHTS ABOUT ANOTHER SERIOUS PROBLEM OF CONCERN TO OUR TWO COUNTRIES. THIS INVOLVES THE LONG-RUN CONSEQUENCES FOR JORDAN, BUT ALSO FOR SAUDI AND U.S. INTERESTS, IF JORDAN IS UNABLE TO PROCURE THE HAWK/VULCAN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM WE AGREED TO

LAST YEAR TO SELL TO IT. YOUR HIGHNESS WILL PERHAPS RECALL THE MAJOR AND ULTIMATELY SUCCESSFUL EFFORT WE MADE TO OVERCOME RESISTANCE IN CONGRESS TO THIS SALE, WHICH WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED BY ISRAEL.

OUR DECISION TO SELL THIS AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM TO KING HUSSEIN WAS BASED ON OUR BELIEF -- WHICH I KNOW YOU SHARE -- THAT A MODERATE, STABLE JORDAN IS ESSENTIAL

IF A LASTING, DURABLE PEACE IS TO BE ACHIEVED IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND IF THE GAINS WE HAVE MADE IN REDUCING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE AREA ARE TO BE PRESERVED. OUR DECISION ALSO TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT JORDAN IS MUCH WEAKER THAN ALL ITS NEIGHBORS IN ITS ABILITY TO WITHSTAND ATTACK FROM THE AIR.

KING HUSSEIN HAS TOLD US HE DEEPLY APPRECIATES YOUR GOVERNMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE DOLLARS 300 MILLION FOR THE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. WE HAVE EXAMINED WHAT COULD BE PROVIDED FOR THIS SUM, HOWEVER, AND HAVE CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD PURCHASE A SYSTEM COMPRISING ONLY SIX HAWK BATTERIES AND APPROXIMATELY 36 VULCAN GUNS. THIS IS SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN THE 14 HAWK BATTERIES AND 100 VULCAN GUNS WHICH KING HUSSEIN STILL CONSIDERS THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM WEAPONRY REQUIRED TO PROTECT JORDAN'S KEY POPULATION AND STRATEGIC CENTERS.

KING HUSSEIN APPARENTLY NOW BELIEVES THAT HIS ONLY RECOURSE IS TO SEEK COMPARABLE AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT FROM THE SOVIET UNION, PROBABLY THROUGH ARRANGEMENTS WITH SYRIA.

I AM SURE YOU SHARE MY CONCERN ABOUT THE FAR-REACHING
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IMPACT THAT SUCH A STEP BY KING HUSSEIN WOULD HAVE ON BOTH OUR COUNTRIES. FOR OUR PART, WE HAVE CAUTIONED KING HUSSEIN THAT IT WOULD LEAD TO A CRITICAL RE-EXAMINATION BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND THE CONGRESS OF OUR TRADITIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JORDAN. KING HUSSEIN IS ACUTELY CONSCIOUS OF THIS RISK, BUT MUST WEIGH AGAINST IT THE RISK OF DISAPPOINTING THE EXPECTATIONS OF HIS LOYAL ARMY.

I RECOGNIZE THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FINANCING THE PURCHASE OF THE HAWK/VULCAN SYSTEM ARE MAINLY A MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION BETWEEN YOUR GOVERNMENT AND JORDAN. BECAUSE OF OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR ALL OF US IF SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT DOES NOT WORK OUT, HOWEVER, WE HAVE DEVELOPED ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS WHICH

AMBASSADOR PORTER HAS CONVEYED TO YOU. I HOPE YOU WILL GIVE YOUR MOST URGENT AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO ENABLING KING HUSSEIN TO PURCHASE AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM COMMENSURATE WITH WHAT HE REGARDS AS THE MINIMUM NECESSARY TO PROTECT JORDAN AGAINST ATTACK FROM THE SKIES.

I ALSO HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE ME EVEN YOUR INITIAL THOUGHTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. OUR PROBLEM IS

THAT IF THIS MATTER CANNOT BE RESOLVED BY APRIL 30, EXISTING CONTRACTS WITH AMERICAN SUPPLIERS OF JORDAN'S AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT, WHICH WE HAVE EXTENDED FOR THE FULL PERIOD PERMISSIBLE UNDER OUR REGULATIONS, WILL HAVE TO BE TERMINATED. IF THE PROGRAM WERE TO BE REINSTITUTED AT A LATER DATE, THE CONTRACTS WOULD HAVE TO BE RENEGOTIATED AND THE TOTAL COSTS WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY HIGHER, OWING TO INFLATION.

AMBASSADOR PORTER WILL BE PREPARED TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE, AND WE WILL OF COURSE RESPOND TO ANY SUGGESTIONS OR OTHER CONSIDERATIONS YOU MAY CARE TO OFFER.

I SEND YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS MY VERY BEST WISHES.

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HENRY A. KISSINGER

END TEXT. ROBINSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR DEFENSE, MILITARY SALES, MISSILES, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE094163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TJCAROLAN:MDRAPER/HLK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760147-0242
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760449/aaaabpjo.tel
Line Count: 204
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 JIDDA 2622, 76 JIDDA 2643
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 OCT 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <18 JUN 2004 by izenbei0, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <14 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FINANCING JORDAN'S AIR DEFENSE
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, US, SA, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (FAHD, PRINCE)
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006